

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 and 38-40 were examined in the latest Office Action. The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 38-40 is noted, with appreciation.

By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 12 are amended, and new claim 43 is added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and at least the following reasons.

THE AMENDMENTS

Independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to recite that “the first operating mechanism and the second operating mechanism are *operable independently*.” Support for this added language is found in the specification on page 7, lines 3-7.

New claim 43 is substantially similar to claim 1, but recites, instead of the “operable independently” limitation, that “said first common linkage element [of the first actuating assembly] is separate from said second common linkage element [of the second actuating assembly].”

THE REJECTIONS

McGrevy (US 5,478,230)

Claims 1-4 and 27-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by McGrevy. This patent discloses plural injection nozzle pairs, but they are not in the form of first and second arrays of injection nozzles with respective actuating assemblies, as recited in Applicant’s independent claim 1. In McGrevy’s “back-to-back valve gate system” there is a cylinder 38 disposed between first and second opposed injection nozzles. The cylinder houses first and second pistons 40a, 40b that are coupled respectively to the valve pins of the first and second nozzles. When actuated, the pistons move *simultaneously* in opposite directions to extend or retract the valve pins simultaneously. The pistons *cannot operate independently*, so McGrevy cannot anticipate these claims.

New claim 43 is not anticipated because McGrevy's valve actuation is simultaneous – not independent – so any linkage elements that the Examiner alleges are present in McGrevy are not separate from one another.

Gellert (US 4,212,627)

Claims 1-26, 31, 32, 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over this Gellert patent. Gellert '627 discloses a single actuating mechanism for simultaneously extending and retracting the valve pins of first and second arrays of nozzles located on opposite sides of the actuating mechanism. Gellert '627 does not disclose first and second actuating mechanisms that are *independently* operable (Applicant's claims 1 and 12), or that are *separate* (claim 43), so this reference does not meet all of the limitations of these claims.

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Gellert '627 in view of Treece (US 5,968,429). Treece is relied on for a teaching of connecting a single injection nozzle to a plurality of mold cavities. However, even if the combination of Treece with Gellert '627 were made, the resulting structure still would not meet the limitations of this claim because of the shortcomings of Gellert '627, discussed above, would not be cured by Treece's multi-mold features.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to

Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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